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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 007354

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [AJ](#) [AM](#) [GG](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: DAS PASCOE'S NOVEMBER 21 TRIP TO ANKARA

(U) Classified by CDA Robert Deutsch, E.O. 12958, reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (S) Summary: EUR DAS Lynn Pascoe visited Turkey on November 21 for a series of meetings with MFA officials. In all his meetings, Pascoe urged MFA officials to think about the period leading up to the NATO Summit as a critical opportunity to showcase Turkey's achievements before the December 2004 EU decision on whether to grant Turkey a date to begin accession negotiations. He told officials the U.S. was ready to help in this effort. With U/S for Economic Affairs Kilic, Pascoe discussed the upcoming Economic Partnership Council (EPC) meeting, Iraq reconstruction, and the Habur border gate. Pascoe encouraged the GOT to think about how to improve the foreign investment climate and Habur gate operations. U/S for Political Affairs Sensoy said the GOT needed better information about progress on the action plan against the PKK/KADEK in Northern Iraq; Pascoe briefed him on the progress of the U.S. action plan. With Caucasus DDG Tezgor, Pascoe reviewed his recent trip to the region and encouraged the GOT to improve relations with Armenia and its economic involvement in the region. End Summary.

Deputy U/S for Economic Affairs Kilic

2. (C) MFA Deputy U/S for Economic Affairs Alev Kilic said Turkey was focusing on developing economic relations with the Caucasus and Central Asia. Kilic viewed the Caucasus as part of "greater Europe," and agreed with Pascoe without strong economic ties to Europe the region could be manipulated by unhelpful actors in Russia. Pascoe noted that Turkey had not yet opened the border with Armenia, forcing trade to go through Georgia's Ajara region. Kilic said "we do not see Armenia as a good neighbor," adding that the issue was political, not economic. Pascoe said his sense was that the Armenian government was enthusiastic about initiatives that would increase activity at the border; Turkey should view this as a strategic imperative.

3. (SBU) Pascoe asked how the U.S. and Turkey could use the upcoming December 2-3 Economic Partnership Council (EPC) meeting and the NATO Summit to bolster U.S.-Turkey relations and show Turkish achievements. Kilic said economic relations needed strengthening but the GOT was uncertain about the way forward. He asked for U.S. ideas about how to make Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZs) work better. He also agreed with DCM that Turkey needed to think about how to improve its foreign investment climate.

4. (C) Kilic said Turkey would be raising the issue of how to get more economic involvement in Iraq reconstruction, including opening more border gates. DCM said activity at the current gate was idle for 5-6 hours every day and that lines of trucks on both sides were growing. This was hampering the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) effort to meet the deadline for winding down the Oil-for-Food Program. Kilic said he had heard Habur was working at full capacity and that FAO trucks were given priority. Pascoe urged the Kilic to make sure the GOT took action on the border gate issue.

5. (SBU) DCM urged Kilic to have the GOT send a senior prosecutor to the December 11-12 preparatory meeting for the Southeast Europe Prosecutors Working Group; Kilic said the GOT supported the Group and he would check to ensure the GOT sent a representative.

Deputy U/S for European Union Affairs Bozkir

6. (C) Pascoe told Deputy U/S for European Union Affairs Volkan Bozkir that the months leading up to the NATO Summit would be a good opportunity for Turkey to highlight its reforms and achievements and that the U.S. was prepared to be helpful. This would be the critical period in the run up to the EU's December 2004 decision about giving Turkey a date to begin accession negotiations. Bozkir expressed appreciation

for U.S. support. He said the government had passed the "critical mass" of laws needed to satisfy the Copenhagen Criteria and was now focusing on implementation. On Cyprus, Bozkir said the GOT wanted a solution, but Cyprus was not part of the political criteria. He expressed concern that the EU's emphasis on Cyprus would strengthen Turkey's domestic critics of EU accession who argue that the EU was looking for excuses not to admit Turkey. He predicted that the GOT would not be able to continue the reform process if it did not get a date in December 2004.

Deputy U/S for Political and Security Affairs Sensoy

17. (S) Deputy U/S for Political and Security Affairs Nabi Sensoy said the GOT had a clear idea of the U.S. action plan against the PKK/KADEK in Iraq. However, he said that the GOT was unhappy with the information exchange about progress on the plan and that "frustration is building." The GOT needed concrete information about progress on the action plan. Sensoy expressed appreciation for U.S. recognition of the so-called "KHK" as another iteration of the PKK/KADEK terrorist organization. Sensoy said that Turkey would work to create the conditions to encourage those in the Makhmour refugee camp to return to Turkey, and he reviewed the timetable laid out in his recent discussions with PRM A/S Dewey.

18. (S) Pascoe noted that the GOT had expressed no dissatisfaction with progress on the action plan during the recent High Level Defense Group (HLDG) meeting in the U.S.; on the contrary, DCHOD Basbug had made positive statements. He noted that the U.S. had recently made a show of force against the PKK after U.S. forces came under PKK fire. The U.S. was preparing courses of action (COAs) against the PKK that should be ready soon. The question was now one of timing and opportunity for execution of the COAs.

Deputy DG for Caucasus Tezgor

19. (C) Pascoe reviewed his recent trip to the Caucasus with Caucasus Department Deputy Director General Tezgor. Tezgor expressed appreciation for Pascoe's readout. Tezgor said he was continuing to have had productive discussions with the Armenians; the two countries were working on "step-by-step" improvements in relations with measure such as increased charter flights, NGO and journalist exchanges, and joint restoration of historical monuments. However, Tezgor said that Turkey would not open the border until Armenia made some concession on Nagorno-Karabakh (NK), such as a partial withdrawal from the occupied territories. Pascoe said the Kocharian would want a concession on NK status before any withdrawal. Tezgor said Armenia would have to take the first step, perhaps by officially recognizing the Turkey-Armenia border.

110. (C) Pascoe pointed out the size difference between Turkey and Armenia: Turkey had no realistic fear of border problems and could not realistically expect a much smaller country to take the first steps. On NK, the GOT could help by preparing public opinion for a settlement. He told Tezgor the U.S. would seek ways in which to keep Turkey better informed about the Minsk Group process.

111. (C) Tezgor worried about increasing Russian influence in the Caucasus. Pascoe said the U.S. was aware of the Russian push and was active in the Caucasus. He told Tezgor the U.S. was continuing to train Georgian forces, would step up military cooperation with Armenia over the next few months, would push for PfP funding in the region, and would seek to get the EU more involved. He said Turkey was a good counterweight to Russia and that Turkey should seek to increase its economic activity in the region.

112. DAS Pascoe was unable to clear this message before his departure.
DEUTSCH